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# DETERMINANT OF $\ell$ -ADIC COHOMOLOGY

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# DETERMINANT OF $\ell$ -ADIC COHOMOLOGY

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We consider the following problem.

Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a smooth  $\ell$ -adic sheaf on a smooth scheme  $U$  over a field  $k$  of characteristic  $\neq \ell$ . Determine the 1-dimensional  $\ell$ -adic representation

$$\det R\Gamma_c(U_{\bar{k}}, \mathcal{F}) = \bigotimes_q (\wedge^{\dim} H_c^q(U_{\bar{k}}, \mathcal{F}))^{\otimes (-1)^q}$$

of the absolute Galois group  $\text{Gal}(\bar{k}/k)$ .

Under certain mild assumptions, the answers are roughly given as follows.

- (1) When the sheaf  $\mathcal{F}$  is constant, it is determined by the discriminant of the de Rham cohomology.
- (2) In general, it is the tensor product of the following 3 contributions.
  - (i) That for the constant sheaf raised to its rank-th power.
  - (ii) The determinant  $\det \mathcal{F} = \wedge^{\text{rank}} \mathcal{F}$  "evaluated" at the canonical cycle.
  - (iii) The Jacobi sum Hecke character determined by the ramification at the boundary.

In this report, only basic ideas will be sketched because the papers [S1], [S2] are already published. There is a Hodge-de Rham version as announced in [S-T].

## 1. Basic examples.

### A. Fermat curve and Jacobi sum.

We consider the  $\ell$ -adic sheaf  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $U = \mathbb{P}^1 - \{0, 1, \infty\} = \{(u : v : w) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid u + v + w = 0, uvw \neq 0\}$  over a field  $k$  containing a primitive  $m$ -th root of unity defined by the covering by a Fermat curve

$$X = \{(x : y : z) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid x^m + y^m + z^m = 0\} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1 = \{(u : v : w) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid u + v + w = 0\}$$

$$(x : y : z) \mapsto (x^m : y^m : z^m)$$

unramified on  $U$ . Let  $\mathbf{a} = (a, b, c) \in \text{Ker}((\mathbb{Z}/m)^3 \xrightarrow{\text{sum}} \mathbb{Z}/m)$ ,  $a, b, c \neq 0$  be a character of  $\text{Gal}(X/\mathbb{P}^1) = \mu_m^3/\text{diag.}$  and let  $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{a}}$  be the corresponding smooth  $\ell$ -adic sheaf of rank 1 on  $U$ . Since  $H_c^q(U_{\bar{k}}, \mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{a}}) = 0$  except for  $q = 1$  and is of dimension 1 for  $q = 1$ , the determinant  $\det R\Gamma_c(U_{\bar{k}}, \mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{a}})$  is the dual of  $H_c^1(U_{\bar{k}}, \mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{a}})$ . It is a well-known fact that the 1-dimensional  $\ell$ -adic representation  $H_c^1(U_{\bar{k}}, \mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{a}})$  is that defined

by the Jacobi sum Hecke character  $J_{\mathbf{a}}$ . When  $k = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_m)$ , for a finite place  $p \nmid m$ , the algebraic Hecke character  $J_{\mathbf{a}}$  is defined by

$$J_{\mathbf{a}}(p) = - \sum_{(u:v:w) \in V(\kappa(v))} \left(\frac{u}{p}\right)_m^a \left(\frac{v}{p}\right)_m^b \left(\frac{w}{p}\right)_m^c$$

where  $\left(\frac{\cdot}{p}\right)_m$  denotes the  $m$ -th power residue symbol at  $v$  and  $V = \{(u : v : w) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid u + v + w = 0, uvw \neq 0\}$ . The fact above is a consequence of the Grothendieck trace formula. Here we note that  $a, b, c$  appearing in the definition of  $J_{\mathbf{a}}$  determine the restriction of the character  $\mathbf{a}$  to the inertia groups  $\mu_m \subset \mu_m^3/\text{diag.}$  at the points  $u = 0, v = 0, w = 0$  respectively. As a conclusion, we see the contribution (iii) of the ramification at boundary in this case.

B. Unramified case (cf. [SS]).

In case A above, we only get the contribution of the ramification. However, in a general case, we have contributions (i) and (ii) of global invariants. This is found by Shuji Saito in the case where the base field is finite.

**Theorem.** (Shuji Saito) *Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a smooth  $\ell$ -adic sheaf on a projective smooth variety  $X$  over a finite field  $k$  of characteristic  $\neq \ell$ . Then the action of the geometric Frobenius  $Fr_k \in \text{Gal}(k_{\text{sep}}/k)$  on  $\det R\Gamma_c(U_{\bar{k}}, \mathcal{F})$  is given by*

$$\det(Fr_k : R\Gamma_c(X_{\bar{k}}, \mathcal{F})) = \det(Fr_k : R\Gamma_c(X_{\bar{k}}, \mathbb{Q}_{\ell}))^{\text{rank } \mathcal{F}} \times \det \mathcal{F}(c_X).$$

Here  $\det \mathcal{F}(c_X)$  denotes the value of the  $\ell$ -adic character of the arithmetic fundamental group  $\pi_1(X)^{ab}$  corresponding to  $\det \mathcal{F} = \wedge^{\text{rank } \mathcal{F}} \mathcal{F}$  evaluated at the image of the canonical class  $c_X = (-1)^n c_n(\Omega_X^1) \in CH^n(X)$ ,  $n = \dim X$ , by the reciprocity map  $CH^n(X) \rightarrow \pi_1(X)^{ab}$  of the class field theory.

## 2. Constant coefficient.

If we assume that our  $U$  admits a smooth compactification  $X$  such that the complement  $D = X - U$  is a divisor with simple normal crossings, then the determinant  $\det R\Gamma_c(U_{\bar{k}}, \mathbb{Q}_{\ell})$  is the alternating product of  $\det R\Gamma(D_{J, \bar{k}}, \mathbb{Q}_{\ell})$  where the intersections  $D_J = \bigcap_{i \in J} D_i$  of the irreducible components of  $D = \bigcup_{i \in I} D_i$  are proper and smooth. In the sequel, we consider the case where  $U = X$  is projective and smooth. By Poincaré duality, we see

$$\det R\Gamma(X_{\bar{k}}, \mathbb{Q}_{\ell})^{\otimes 2} \simeq \mathbb{Q}_{\ell}(-n\chi)$$

where  $n = \dim X$  and  $\chi$  is the Euler characteristic of  $X_{\bar{k}}$ . Hence there is a character  $\epsilon$  of  $\text{Gal}(k_{\text{sep}}/k)$  of order 2 such that

$$\det R\Gamma(X_{\bar{k}}, \mathbb{Q}_{\ell}) \simeq \epsilon\left(-\frac{n\chi}{2}\right).$$

When the dimension  $n$  is odd, since the cup-product on  $H^n$  is a non-degenerate alternating form, the dimension of  $H^n$  and hence the Euler number  $\chi$  are even and  $\epsilon$  is trivial. Therefore the only non-trivial problem is to determine  $\epsilon$  when  $n$  is even. The answer is the following.

**Theorem 1.** Assume  $\text{char } k \neq 2$  and let  $X$  be a projective smooth variety over  $k$  of even dimension  $n = 2m$ . Then the character  $\epsilon$  corresponds to the square roots of

$$(-1)^{m\chi+b^-} \cdot \text{disc } H_{dR}^n$$

where  $\chi$  is the Euler number,  $b^- = \sum_{q < n} H_{dR}^q(X/k)$  and  $\text{disc } H_{dR}^n$  is the discriminant of the cup-product of the de Rham cohomology of the middle degree.

Proof is done by taking a Lefschetz pencil and by computing the vanishing cycles by the Picard-Lefschetz formula.

3. With coefficient.

Our result gives an answer under the following rather mild assumption.

- (1) The ramification of  $\mathcal{F}$  along the boundary is tame. More precisely, we take a smooth compactification  $X$  of  $U$  such that the complement  $D = X - U$  is a divisor with simple normal crossings and, at each irreducible component of  $D$ , the pro- $p$  Sylow subgroup of the inertia group acts trivially on the stalk of  $\mathcal{F}$ .
- (2) There is a subring  $A \subset k$  finitely generated over  $\mathbb{Z}$  such that  $\mathcal{F}$  is defined on a model of  $U$  on  $A$ .

The condition (1) is satisfied if  $\text{char } k = 0$  and (2) is satisfied if  $\mathcal{F}$  is defined geometrically.

Under the hypothesis (2), by the Cebotarev density, the problem is reduced to the residue fields of the maximal ideals of  $A$  and hence, for simplicity, we will assume  $k$  is finite in the sequel.

First we describe the formula for curve. Let  $U$  be a smooth curve over a finite field  $k$  of order  $q$  and  $X$  be the smooth compactification. Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a smooth  $\ell$ -adic sheaf ( $\ell \nmid q$ ) on  $U$  at most tamely ramified at the boundary  $D = X - U$ . For simplicity, we assume that the points  $x_i \in D = \{x_i\}$  are rational over  $k$  and that, for each  $x_i$ , the representation of the inertia group  $I_i$  on the stalk of  $\mathcal{F}$  is the direct sum  $\mathcal{F}|_{I_i} \simeq \bigoplus_j \chi_{i,j}$  of characters of the quotient  $I_i \rightarrow k^\times : \sigma \mapsto \sigma(\pi_i^{\frac{1}{q-1}})/\pi_i^{\frac{1}{q-1}}$  where  $\pi_i$  is a uniformizer at  $x_i$ . In this case, the product formula [L] of Laumon gives us

**Theorem.** (Laumon) Let  $U$  be a smooth curve over a finite field  $k$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  be a smooth  $\ell$ -adic sheaf on  $U$  tamely ramified along the boundary satisfying the simplifying assumption above. Then

$$\det(\text{Fr}_k : R\Gamma_c(U_{\bar{k}}, \mathcal{F})) = \det(\text{Fr}_k : R\Gamma_c(U_{\bar{k}}, \mathbb{Q}_\ell))^{\text{rank } \mathcal{F}} \times J_{\chi_{\mathcal{F}}} \times \det \mathcal{F}(c_{X,D}).$$

Here  $\chi_{\mathcal{F}}$  is the family of  $M = \deg D \times \text{rank } \mathcal{F}$  characters  $(\chi_{i,j})_{x \in D, 1 \leq i \leq \text{rank } \mathcal{F}}$  of  $k^\times$  and  $J_{\chi_{\mathcal{F}}}$  denotes the Jacobi sum

$$J_{\chi_{\mathcal{F}}} = (-1)^M \sum_{(a_{i,j}) \in V(k)} \prod_{i,j} \chi_{i,j}(a_{i,j})$$

where  $V = \{(a_{i,j}) \in \mathbb{P}^{M-1} \mid \sum a_{i,j} = 0, \prod a_{i,j} \neq 0\}$ . The relative canonical class  $c_{X,D}$  denotes the class

$$-\sum_{x \in U} \deg_x \omega \cdot [x] \in \bigoplus_{x \in U} \mathbb{Z} / \{a \in K^\times \mid a \equiv 1 \pmod{D}\} = CH^1(X, D)$$

where  $\omega$  is a rational section of  $\Omega_X^1(\log D)$  satisfying  $\text{ord}_x \omega = 0, \text{res}_x = 1$  for  $x \in D$  and  $\det F(c_{X,D})$  denotes the value of the character of  $\pi_1(U)^{\text{ab,tame}}$  corresponding to the rank 1 sheaf  $\det \mathcal{F}$  evaluated at the image of  $c_{X,D}$  by the reciprocity map  $CH^1(X, D) \rightarrow \pi_1(U)^{\text{ab,tame}}$  of the class field theory.

Our main result in higher dimension is formally the same as in the case of curve.

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $X$  be a projective smooth variety over a finite field  $k$  and  $U$  be an open subscheme such that the complement  $D = X - U$  is a divisor with simple normal crossings. Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be a smooth  $\ell$ -adic sheaf on  $U$  tamely ramified along the boundary  $D$ . Then*

$$\det(Fr_k : R\Gamma_c(U_{\bar{k}}, \mathcal{F})) = \det(Fr_k : R\Gamma_c(U_{\bar{k}}, \mathbb{Q}_\ell))^{\text{rank } \mathcal{F}} \times J_{\chi_{\mathcal{F}}} \times \det \mathcal{F}(c_{X,D})$$

where  $J_{\chi_{\mathcal{F}}}$  and  $\det \mathcal{F}(c_{X,D})$  are defined below.

The proof is analogous to the constant coefficient case and is done by the induction on dimension by taking a Lefschetz pencil and by computing the vanishing cycle.

In the rest of this report, I explain the idea of the definition of the terms in the right hand side of Theorem 2. The definition of the Jacobi sum is easier. Let  $X$  be a smooth compactification of  $U$  such that the complement  $D = X - U$  is a divisor with simple normal crossings. For simplicity, we assume the constant fields of the components  $D_i$  of  $D$  are  $k$  and the Euler numbers  $\chi_i = \sum_q (-1)^q \dim H_c^q(D_{i,\bar{k}}^*, \mathbb{Q}_\ell)$  of  $D_i^* = D_i - \bigcup_{j \neq i} D_j$  are bigger or equal to 0. We also assume for simplicity that for each irreducible component  $D_i$ , the representation of the inertia group  $I_i$  on the stalk of  $\mathcal{F}$  is the direct sum  $\mathcal{F}|_{I_i} \simeq \bigoplus_j \chi_{i,j}$  of characters of the quotient  $I_i \rightarrow k^\times : \sigma \mapsto \sigma(\pi_i^{\frac{1}{q-1}})/\pi_i^{\frac{1}{q-1}}$  where  $\pi_i$  is a uniformizer of the divisor  $D_i$ . Under the above simplifying assumption, we define the Jacobi sum  $J_{\chi_{\mathcal{F}}}$  by

$$J_{\chi_{\mathcal{F}}} = (-1)^M \sum_{(a_{i,j,k}) \in V(k)} \prod_{i,j,k} \chi_{i,j}(a_{i,j,k})$$

where  $i$  runs the indices of the irreducible components of  $D$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq \text{rank } \mathcal{F}$ ,  $1 \leq k \leq \chi_i$ ,  $M = \text{rank } \mathcal{F} \times \sum_i \chi_i$  and  $V = \{(a_{i,j,k}) \in \mathbb{P}^{M-1} \mid \sum a_{i,j,k} = 0, \prod a_{i,j,k} \neq 0\}$ .

Finally I explain the idea of the definition of the relative canonical class  $c_{X,D}$  in higher dimension. Note that in the case of curve, the residue  $\text{res}_x : \Omega_X^1(\log D) \otimes \kappa(x) \rightarrow \kappa(x)$  at  $x \in D$  defines a trivialization of the invertible sheaf  $\Omega_X^1(\log D)$  at  $x$ . In general case, for each irreducible component  $D_i$  of the complement  $D = X - U$ , the residue  $\text{res}_i : \Omega_X^1(\log D) \otimes \mathcal{O}_{D_i} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{D_i}$  defines a partial trivialization of the locally free sheaf  $\Omega_X^1(\log D)$  of rank  $n$ . This family of partial trivializations enables us to define a refined chern class  $c_n(\Omega_X^1(\log D), \text{res})$  as follows. Let's briefly recall a definition of the top chern class  $c_n(\mathcal{E})$  of a locally free sheaf  $\mathcal{E}$  of rank  $n$  on a smooth variety  $X$ . It is the image of 1 by the composition map

$$\mathbb{Z} \simeq H_{\{0\}}^n(V, \mathcal{K}_n) \rightarrow H^n(V, \mathcal{K}_n) \simeq H^n(X, \mathcal{K}_n) = CH_n(X)$$

where  $V$  denotes the vector bundle associated to  $\mathcal{E}$ ,  $\mathcal{K}_n$  is the Zariski sheaf associated to Quillen's K-group and the last equality is a consequence of the Gersten resolution.

To define the refined chern class  $c_n(\Omega_X^1(\log D), \text{res})$ , let  $V$  be the vector bundle associated to  $\Omega_X^1(\log D)$  and we consider complexes

$$\mathcal{K}_{n,X,D} = [\mathcal{K}_{n,X} \rightarrow \bigoplus_i \mathcal{K}_{n,D_i}], \mathcal{K}_{n,V,\Delta} = [\mathcal{K}_{n,V} \rightarrow \bigoplus_i \mathcal{K}_{n,\Delta_i}]$$

where  $\Delta_i \subset V_{D_i}$  is the inverse image of the 1-section by  $\text{res}_i : V_{D_i} \rightarrow \mathbb{A}_{D_i}^1$ . We define the class as the image of 1 by the composition map

$$\mathbb{Z} \simeq H_{\{0\}}^n(V, \mathcal{K}_{n,V,\Delta}) \rightarrow H^n(V, \mathcal{K}_{n,V,\Delta}) \simeq H^n(X, \mathcal{K}_{n,X,D}) = CH^n(X, D).$$

Here the first isomorphism is by the fact  $\Delta \cap \{0\} = \emptyset$ , the second isomorphism is by the homotopy property of  $K$ -cohomology and the equality is the definition. Thus  $c_{X,D} = (-1)^n c_n(\Omega_X^1(\log D), \text{res}) \in CH^n(X, D)$  is defined. By the reciprocity map  $CH^n(X, D) \rightarrow \pi_1(U)^{\text{ab}, \text{tame}}$ , the value  $\det \mathcal{F}(c_{X,D})$  of the character of  $\pi_1(U)^{\text{ab}, \text{tame}}$  corresponding to  $\det \mathcal{F}$  evaluated at the image of  $c_{X,D}$  is defined. This is the idea of the definition.

More detail will be found in [S1], [S2].

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More references will be found in the lists in [S1], [S2].